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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/582,659	04/24/2007	Joseph Grez	US03 0500 US2	6670
24738 7590 03/10/2010 PHILIPS INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY & STANDARDS PO BOX 3001 BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY 10510-8001				
EXAMINER PATEL, YOGESH P				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3732				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
03/10/2010		PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/582,659

**Applicant(s)**

GREZ, JOSEPH

**Examiner**

YOGESH PATEL

**Art Unit**

3732

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 November 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/22)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

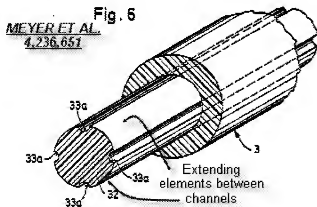
**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103**

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kuo (2003/0077107) in view of Meyer et al. (4,236,651) in view of either Gjertsen et al. (4,783,312) or Flick et al. (6,295,427).

Kuo discloses a stem portion for a toothbrush including a stem body 31 (fig. 3b-3c and 6a-b) having an outer and inner surface which defines the longitudinal opening 31, a core member 33 configured to fit within the stem body opening. Kuo fails to disclose grooves as claimed and the core member includes two extending elements located between the first and second channel.



Meyer teaches a core member (fig. 6) having longitudinal grooves 33a for throughflow channel and includes two extending elements located between the first and

second channel. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Kuo by providing multiple channel by grooves as taught by Meyer for providing fluid/dentifrice through multiple ports into the bristles of the toothbrush. Note that neither Kuo or Meyer disclose a stem body having grooves, however it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Kuo by providing grooves that corresponds to groove of Meyer so that circular channel can be formed, if one desires do so. For example, if one desire to have a square longitudinal channel, then one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made would realize to create semi square shape groove (as oppose to semi circular groove of Meyer) on the core member and the same to the stem body so that a square shaped channel could be achieved. Further, Kuo discloses fluid pathways and ribs and the stem body includes slot for locking purposes. Kuo is silent about the two extending ribs are being welded to the stem body. However, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to connect two mechanical members by welding or other means since applicant has not disclosed that this solves any stated problem or is anything more than one of numerous shapes or configuration a person of ordinary skill in the art would find obvious for the purpose of providing an obliquely inclined housing. In re Dailey and Eilers, 149 USPQ 47 (1966).

In response to Applicant's arguments in the response filed on 06/17/03 that mating grooves forming a channel is not shown in either Kuo or Meyer. The Examiner points to Flick where two base members having groove are aligned to create a

passage/channel (fig. 3A-3B, see elements 73, 56, 64, 66). Further, Gjertsen shows rods 21 (fig. 5) having semi oval-shaped grooves 22 which are aligned to form a channel/passage. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify Kuo by providing grooves that corresponds to groove of Meyer so that circular channel can be formed, if one desires do so for the purpose of passing fluids/paste thru the channel.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

During a telephonic interview with Clark A. Puntigam on 02/25/2010, it was indicated that claims 1, 3-10 would be allowable, however upon further review of Meyer reference, it was found that the amended limitation is disclosed as shown above in the figure.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed 11/25/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that the channel is not extending all the way to the bristles; however Kuo shows the channel extending to the bristles (fig. 3).

#### ***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to YOGESH PATEL whose telephone number is (571)270-3646. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cris Rodriguez can be reached on 571-272-4964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/YOGESH PATEL/  
Examiner, Art Unit 3732

/Cris L. Rodriguez/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3732